/406 cont./

322 Aside from the construction of houses and stables, wood
824 has /407/ an extraordinary number of uses. For example, tables, benches, stools (Ill. 107) and beds, the distillation apparatus for making alcohol, rice mills, rice steamers and pounders, the troughs for the pig fodder, and the pack saddles for the animals (Ill. 81) are made of it; furthermore the handles of tools and knives, sheaths for knives, spear shafts and the gun stocks, crossbows, bellows (Ill. 82), and musical instruments, such as the mouth organ, are produced from it; the altars (Ill. 99) are built out of it; it is likewise necessary for building wells,
[386] and, finally, dyestuff is also obtained from wood.

• 324 Since the Meau have long since left the Neolithic, stone
[412] tools are no longer in use, and since the immigration of the
[174] Meau into their present habitation area in northern Thailand took place only a few decades ago, I could no longer find any such material from their early history. On the other hand, even today the Meau work stone into grindstones (Ill. 94) or whetstones. Moreover, from a soft porous stone which they
325 burn out before working, they make the crucibles (Fig. 365) and casting molds (Ill. 82) for silver and copper, since they have a considerable knowledge of the use and working of metals. On the other hand, they are not in a position to obtain metals from ore, nor can they smelt wrought iron, but with the help of their bellows (Figs. 362-364) and a charcoal fire they know how to forge and weld it. They can smelt cast iron
[439] which they obtain from broken pots and pans acquired from the Chinese traders. From this kind of iron, bullets and even implements, such as the shoe of the digging stick (Fig. 267) are molded. For this a mud mold is made of an implement for which one wants to make a new piece, and it now serves for the new casting. Casting by dead mold is unknown to the Meau in Thailand.

The forging equipment (Ill. 82) is of wood, iron, or stone and is entirely made by a Meau smith. It is:

1 [See cat 116, P706 - ANALYST]
2+3 [" " " P596 - "]
4 [" " " P664 - "]
5 [" " " P644 - "]